

# BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 7, Spring 2005

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

[www.iskconirm.com](http://www.iskconirm.com)

## GBC Meetings 2005 Special Issue

*ISKCON Second  
Generation speaks out*

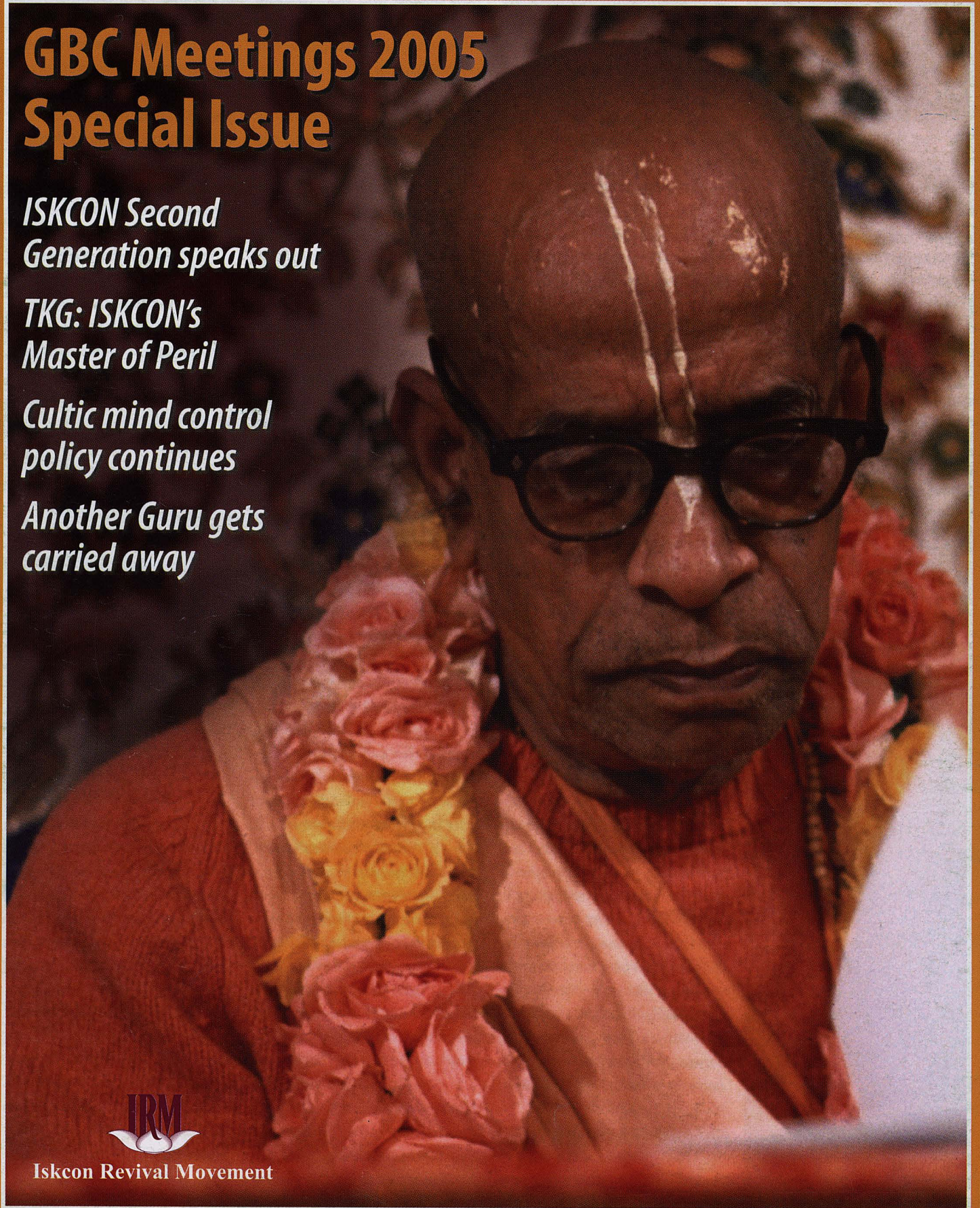
*TKG: ISKCON's  
Master of Peril*

*Cultic mind control  
policy continues*

*Another Guru gets  
carried away*

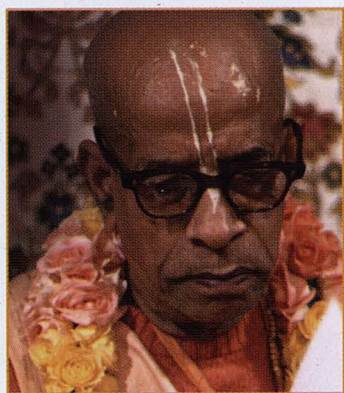


Iskcon Revival Movement





# Putting an end to ISKCON's bait-and-switch scam



## BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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Welcome to issue 7 of *Back to Prabhupada*, in which we take a special look at what came out of the annual GBC (ISKCON's Governing Body Commission) meetings that took place at the end of February. Srila Prabhupada set up the GBC to guide ISKCON in implementing his instructions. However, this year's GBC meetings provided yet more evidence of how the GBC is actually disobeying Srila Prabhupada.

Sometimes devotees ask why we need to constantly criticise ISKCON's renegade Gurus: *"Why not just glorify Srila Prabhupada, that will attract more people"; "Just concentrate on positive preaching, distribute books, and stop criticising others,"* are comments we occasionally hear. In response to this:

Firstly, we always quote extensively from Srila Prabhupada - our last issue included more than forty excerpts from his books, conversations and letters. We also publish many positive letters and stories from devotees around the world who have practically experienced the benefits of rejecting ISKCON's ersatz Gurus and directly worshipping Srila Prabhupada instead.

Secondly, the heaviest criticisms in our magazine usually emanate from the so-called Gurus themselves as they fight and squabble with each other over the spoils of their unauthorised takeover. BTP certainly presents the truth in an uncompromising and direct style, but this approach is authorised by Srila Prabhupada:

*"Devotees always humbly offer respect to everyone, but when there is a discussion on a point of sastras (scripture), they do not observe the usual etiquette, satyam bruyat priyam bruyat. They speak only the satyam (truth), although it may not necessarily be priyam (following norms of etiquette)."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, August 7th, 1976)

Thirdly, and perhaps most ironically, ISKCON itself already ex-

pends a great deal of effort glorifying Srila Prabhupada via various publications, videos, diaries and memorial festivals. One might ask how people who wish to usurp Srila Prabhupada can also find it within themselves to glorify him on a regular basis?

Srila Prabhupada is undoubtedly ISKCON's biggest asset. His vast canon of teachings and outstanding personal example of purity and saintliness are what usually attract people to the Movement in the first place. Srila Prabhupada wrote all the books that shall form the basis of everything ISKCON will ever teach for up to ten thousand years hence. It is these books that explain the entire science of Krishna Consciousness, and inspire people to surrender their lives to Krishna. In effect, the Guru hoaxers have made a career out of basking in Srila Prabhupada's reflected glory, using him to bolster their own competing mini-missions. For these personalities, Srila Prabhupada is the 'goose who always lays the golden eggs'. That is why they must keep telling people how great he is and promoting his books.

The Guru hoaxers use this glorification rather like an unscrupulous shopkeeper who puts an attractive item in his window to attract the customers, only to sell them a vastly inferior product once they set foot inside the store. This is called "bait-and-switch". You draw people in with something wonderful, and then switch it for something cheap and nasty once you have them "hooked". Newcomers to ISKCON are thus encouraged, *"Look how wonderful Srila Prabhupada is, what a perfect spiritual master!"*, and then when they join the 'product' is switched - *"but you can only have him as your direct guide for the first six months, then you must choose someone else from the GBC-approved Guru list."*

It sounds strange, but the fact

is that if BTP only expanded on this "glorification" it would actually be doing the greatest disservice. We would simply be assisting in the process of drawing people into the Guru hoaxers' trap.

Just as a doctor who prescribes medicine without warning of possible side-effects would be acting unprofessionally, as devotees it is completely irresponsible to attract people to Srila Prabhupada's Movement without telling them anything about what has gone wrong.

ISKCON may appear to be teaching Krishna Consciousness, but the formula has been changed. Srila Prabhupada's final order on how initiations were to run has been disobeyed, and this one act of defiance is causing untold harm to everyone involved.

Thus the aim of BTP is to:

- Prevent new devotees from accepting unauthorised replacements for Srila Prabhupada.
- Expose those who are "glorifying" Srila Prabhupada simply as a means of expanding their own little empires.
- Encourage devotees to work together to return to the correct, winning formula, as originally ordered by Srila Prabhupada in his institutional directive of July 9th 1977 (for details see BTP 1).

In this way we hope to one day put an end to the bait-and-switch scam that has been going on since November 14th 1977.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: [irm@iskconirm.com](mailto:irm@iskconirm.com). We welcome all correspondence.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read our magazine. Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant  
Editor



# Letters to the Editor

"Thank you all so much for your good work. The service that you are doing is remarkable. All Glories to Swami Prabhupada!!! Kind Regards"

**Dr Daniel B Taylor, Otaki  
Railway, New Zealand**

"I am glad you are continuing to send information about the Back to Prabhupada movement, and I shall follow its developments with interest. Hare Krishna, and all good wishes"

**Dr G D Chryssides, School of Humanities,  
Languages and Social Sciences,  
Wolverhampton University, UK**

"Thanks for the Back to Prabhupada magazine. As the editor of Living Traditions magazine and the co-ordinator of a local Bhakti library, these issues are very significant to me! Can you please send a copy of The Final Order, thanks. Hare Krishna."

**Robert Ledwidge, New  
South Wales, Australia**

"Haribol. I have recently come across your latest "Back to Prabhupada" magazine from a devotee here, and I have to say I was totally blown away! Everything that I read makes complete sense, it was like the missing link. I am writing to request a copy of "The Final Order" as well as any back issues of "Back to Prabhupada" Magazine that you have available. This is amazing. I don't believe that I have been deceived for so long. I feel like I've been a pawn in the guru-game. I am so angry right now and I will turn to the only ISKCON guru, Srila Prabhupada for his wisdom and help. You all are doing a wonderful service. Thank you again for your mission and I look forward to serving and working with you all to get this truth out to the masses. We must reclaim Prabhupada's movement that was hi-jacked by rascals of the lowest degree. Please send the requested material: "The Final Order" as well as any back issues of "Back to Prabhupada" magazine."

**Gopalapriya Das, Louisiana, USA**

"Hare Krishna. My great respect and pranam to you. I am grateful to acknowledge with heart the issue 5, Autumn 2004. It is my humble submission to you that IRM is a great glory for the ISKCON followers. More than 25 people read the magazine who come to my house off and on. I believe that Prabhupada is the only DIKSA GURU of ISKCON's lifetime. I am a life member of ISKCON and came from a Vaisnava family of Bengal and visited a good number of ISKCON Temple. All glories to SRILA PRABHUPADA."

**Bidyut Kumar Dey, Calcutta, India**

"A real eye opener! I've been wondering about this for some time now. Just what I needed. Great! Hare Krsna! Srila Prabhupada ki jaya!"

**Rafael Corrales, Ibiza, Spain**

"It is hard for me to associate with devotees because when I try to explain what I feel regarding my confusion, they say it is all maya and my offences. That is why I am so humbly grateful for the magazine. Please continue to send me copies."

**Elaine Oehman, West Virginia, USA**

"Thank you very much for the BTP magazine, please keep sending them to me! Thank you very much! P.S. How can I learn deity worship as His Divine Grace taught it?"

**Maxime Lapointe, Montreal, Canada**

"Dear Prabhus, Thanks for bringing Srila Prabhupada back to the ISKCON."

**Ekachakra Das, Founder & Director,  
Nigeria Vegetarian Society**

"Good to see ISKCON being restored its original glory. Jai Prabhupada."

**R. Krishna Murthy, Bangalore, India**

"It gives the true picture of all earlier devotees, how they have taken advantage and misbehaved. My full support for the BTP magazine. Wonderful, keep it up! Hare Krsna."

**Ashok Gopal, Bangalore, India**

"Keep going!! They are feeling pain!"

**Naranarayana Visvakarma  
Das, California, USA**

"All glories be to Srila Prabhupada, and all glories be to his true disciples who are bringing the Vaishnavas back to the true Guru-tattva, Srila Prabhupada!"

**Gopikanta Das, Queensland, Australia**

"I have read the first two issues of Back to Prabhupada magazine and found them most interesting, containing so many facts & issues I certainly was not aware of. All Glories To Your Service!!!!!! KI JAI!!!!!!"

**Bhakta Chris, Brisbane, Australia**

"I accept Srila Prabhupada as my spiritual master and I bought his books and I enjoy devotional service. I practice Krsna Consciousness with my wife and son at home. We don't attend the temple. We love reading your publication."

**M. Husani, London, UK**

"I await anxiously the new Back to Prabhupada. They are painful to hear but at the same time very necessary to expose the pretenders. Keep it coming. A humble ally & servant,"

**Tattva Darshan Das, Vancouver, Canada**

"Thank you very much for the "Back to Prabhupada" magazine. I very much appreciate the good service you are doing for Srila Prabhupada in exposing the so-called gurus who have hijacked Srila Prabhupada's movement by tyranny. So in conclusion, if we actually want peace in ISKCON then we have to fight this tyranny in the realm of thought which is imposed by the bogus GBC, their manipulative self-made gurus and their violent hired thugs in devotee dresses. "Back To Prabhupada" certainly is a good vehicle for this kind of open discussions. It is nice to see more and more devotees are coming forward exposing the terror regime of the bogus GBC. All Glories to our bonafide Jagat Guru His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada!"

**Mahesh Raja, Manchester, England**

"Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to Srila Prabhupada! I just happened to read Issue 5 of "Back to

Prabhupada," and liked it VERY MUCH!! Thank you, in the service of Srila Prabhupada"

**Rainer Haapala, Almviks Gard, Sweden**

"I just got a copy of BTP, Back to Prabhupada, issue 5, and I recommend it. Whether you like IRM or not, you will appreciate these revealing articles."

**Visoka Das, West Virginia, USA**

"WOW! WHAT AN EYE OPENER! I SAW YOUR magazine "Back to Prabhupada" and "it's WONDERFUL!" is all I can say. How can words describe something so UPLIFTING! and REJUVENATING!? WHAT AN EYE OPENER! I've been so depressed for so long that at one point I gave up following some of my initiation vows and I stopped chanting. Seeing BTP has lifted me out of my depression and got me fully back on track. Although I began again to follow the four regulative principles, I didn't get back to my chanting of 16 rounds. Now I am doing this as well. I now realize that Srila Prabhupada is the only guru for Iskcon and the problem is that this is not recognised or preached in Iskcon. Before this I was so deluded into thinking that all of these other gurus were the gurus."

**Sanjay Kumar, Bombay, India**

"Very good to know about the programme."

**Raju Neupane, London, UK**

"Thank you very much for sending me Back to Prabhupada. You are doing a great service to our Gurudeva. I am sure he is very pleased with your wonderful work! Your servant,"

**Madhuryamrta Das, Alicante, Spain**

"I read The Final Order and knew the truth. It is very wonderful to know the message of Srila Prabhupada."

**Dilip Awasti, Andhra Pradesh, India**

"Regards to all Vaishnavas. Prabhupada is soul of ISKCON and his orders are the final, so, we should follow them. Go on IRM, keep it up! Hari bol."

**Parox Vaniya, Dehradun, India**



## Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

"I enjoyed reading BTP. I'm so glad to see the truth coming out. It's been a long time coming and I definitely want to be a part of the movement."

**Bhakti-lila Dasi, California, USA**

"Glories to our spiritual father Srila Prabhupada, glories to Sri Sri Caitanya Nityananda Prabhus,

I have read with interest the opening comments forward to "The Final Order" of Professor Kim Knott, Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK. It is remarkable someone of her qualifications speaks with unbiased, intellectual vigour in her glorification of our Srila Prabhupada, and fondness for his books, and for the Truth of matters.

I was very moved by the story of Sriman Caitanya Thankey and his family of Vaisnava devotees in BTP issue 5, to continue in faith and practise the instructions and imperatives as given by Srila Prabhupada. I wish them continued seeking of Srila Prabhupada's blessings.

All these years it was considered I am a blooped devotee. Truth of the matter, it was disturbance to my sadhana to stay amongst the fighting, arguing, strong arm tactics used by tactless persons, claiming to represent our Srila Prabhupada. So I was forced to continue "outside ISKCON." Well I have never left the association of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and remain this day stronger in faith by witness the events as they unfold, and the Truth made known.

In this regard an interesting quote from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta: "even if Truth remains covered due to insufficient study of the sastras and intense selfishness, it will certainly become apparent in due course of time. In this age of Kali there is often no respect for the Truth among persons who are blinded by selfishness. Rather disqualified persons are rewarded. Anyway, if after seeing all this evidence someone's selfishness is even slightly reduced, it will yield

some kind of auspicious result in the world. By its own concocted arguments an unqualified community can never put real obstacles on the path of qualified brahmanas."

**(Brahmana and Vaisnava)**

As we witness the continued glorification of our Srila Prabhupada's reinstatement if you will (although Srila Prabhupada was never really usurped), everyone in the world will be more and more benefited by the acceptance of Srila Prabhupada as befitting the title "JAGAT GURU", and reading his books with enthusiasm in faith knowing this, the path of bhakti-yoga as instructed by him will always remain "AS IS."

No deviation, no misguided instruction, only the continued undeserved love and kindness which he demonstrates and gives freely to anyone, of surrender and honest humility in Krsna consciousness.

**Saranagati**

Good informative editions of Back to Prabhupada. Jagat Guru... His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada... 'Ki Jai.' I hope this meets you and the staff well in health and perspicacious in your Krsna conscious endeavours... ever felicitate in the dust of the feet of genuine Vaisnavas"

**Gopijana Dasa Das, Ashcroft, Canada**

"Dear Prabhus, thank you for your service."

**Tapati Dasi, California, USA**

"Now after going through the contents properly, we are actually very delighted to understand and realize the fact that Srila Prabhupada is the only Guru of ISKCON. It is as if we have read - What we always wanted? Acceptance of this fact amongst the entire ISKCON family can really save ISKCON from any future collapse and also result in real widescale, spotless and unstoppable preaching of Krishna Consciousness throughout the world."

**A. Bhalla, New Delhi, India**

"Enclosed small donation to help IRM eradicate cancer within ISKCON. Haribol!"

**Adrian Gilbert, Crawley, England**

"Thank you for sending me the latest issue of BTP. Once starting to read, it couldn't be put down. Really nice magazine, and particularly this issue. The section about the guru wars was an eye opener."

**Rama Rhagava Das, Atlanta, USA**

"You have let the cat loose inside the exploiter's den. Looks like dare devil episode against all odds. Good luck."

**V. Braladeswaran, Tamil Nadu, India**

"A very nice magazine offered at the feet of Srila Prabhupada. Very nice to read about the distribution of BTP. Please give me the chance to distribute the magazine. I have already started answering the devotees who are in my contact about the BTP."

**SK Aishwarya Kumar, Bangalore, India**

"Thank you lots n' lots. All glories to your most wonderful service to Srila Prabhupada for Krishna. As always all peace. All peace. Haribol."

**Harry E. Madison, Florida, USA**

"I am a member of ISKCON for over 25 years and I am serving Srila Prabhupada every day at our temple and the deities Sri Gaura Nitai, and Holy Name, preaching from Srila Prabhupada's books every day and almost every Sunday at the temple. I am happy to read your magazine. Please send me vol. 1, 2 and 3. I badly need them."

**Nityananda Das, West Coast**

**Demerara, Guyana**

"I think you should be very careful when writing about the quality and position of the Vaisnavas."

Vaisnava aparadha (the great elephant offence) is extremely dangerous and undesirable. I am sure that Srila Prabhupada would be most anxious, thinking that his followers and especially his initiated disciples are making such offences. When compiling a magazine of this nature, which is so openly distributed, you are putting yourself in

a dangerous position. The criticism of Srila Prabhupada's godbrothers and disciples is an offence to Srila Prabhupada himself.

I personally was very offended by some of the articles in your magazine."

**Haladhara Das, Wales, UK**

[Editor's reply: Please note, the criticism you refer to is made mainly by:

a) Srila Prabhupada's disciples themselves attacking one another. It is not necessary for us to make much criticism when there is more than enough criticism emanating from the unauthorised Gurus against each other. We are simply reporting these "Gurus" and their followers attacking each other and the GBC.

b) In addition, we are simply printing Srila Prabhupada's statements regarding his Godbrothers, or repeating verbatim the words of these "Vaisnavas" you think about.

c) As Srila Prabhupada states, TRUTH must be spoken for the benefit of all:

"Truthfulness demands that the facts be presented as they are for the benefit of others. That is the definition of truth."

**(Bhagavad-gita As It Is, 10:4-5, purport)**

Please pick out even ONE statement from all the previous issues of BTP which is UNTRUE, and we will gladly print a retraction. If you are unable to do this, then WHY should we not continue presenting the truth "for the benefit of others" as Srila Prabhupada has ordered?]

"I love the BTP magazine. It is really groovy to read, and it is a really good laugh as well. I am only 11 years old and even I can understand when I read the BTP how Srila Prabhupada can still be our diksha guru and the only spiritual master of ISKCON. So why can't the bigwig GBC understand this simple truth? You have done a great job in exposing the bogus gurus."

**Laxmipriya, Age 11, London, UK**



# The illustrious career of our new GBC Chairman

## GBC Meetings 2005

ISKCON's official news service, ISKCON News, opened its "GBC: Who's Who for 2005" announcement with the following words:

*"Nothing drastic in the air for the organisation of ISKCON's top level of management this year."*

We then learn that the new GBC Chairman for this year is HH Devamrta Swami, who is "well-known for his work on creating urban preaching centres."

What is not so well-known amongst the newer devotees in ISKCON today is that up until 10 years ago HH Devamrta Swami had traded in his *sannyasa* robes for those of a Franciscan friar – while still allegedly acting as a *sannyasi*, as the accompanying newspaper article illustrates.



In the article, a hint is given as to why Devamrta Swami was dressed in Christian-style robes:

*"The American visitors aren't your average Krishna believers. They are disciples of what could be termed a more liberal branch of the Krishna movement ... Swami Bhaktipada founded this ecumenical side of the Krishna movement"*

This Swami Bhaktipada is, of course, Kirtanananda Swami, one of the original 11 self-authorised "Zonal Gurus" who was recently released from prison after serving 8 years on racketeering charges. Kirtanananda started up his own Guru cult in New Vrindaban, West Virginia, where Christian-style robes were worn. He is pictured here being worshipped on

his "throne".

After New Vrindaban effectively began to collapse, Devamrta Swami made the career switch of returning to the ISKCON-GBC fold, where he later became a GBC voted-in Guru.

Since that time, Devamrta has been developing his own style of



**Devamrta Swami: One of the new crop of unauthorised Gurus**

"Guruship". This has included an astonishing public declaration of doubt about the potency and legacy of Srila Prabhupada's books. In his 2002 Vyasa-Puja offering to Srila Prabhupada, Devamrta Swami offered some shocking suggestions for a "post-Prabhupada's books"

ISKCON. Considering that Srila Prabhupada's books are destined to be the lawbooks for ISKCON for the next 9500 years, we are amazed that this concept has arisen in ISKCON many thousands of years before it should even war-



**Kirtanananda Swami: Taking unauthorised Guru worship to new levels**

rant consideration!

What is particularly shocking is the doubt the Swami casts on the legacy that Srila Prabhupada has left. We quote some extracts from his "offering":

*"During your physical presence your books were our be-all and end-all. Now, have we entered, consciously or unconsciously, a new era of ISKCON known as 'PPB'—that is, 'post-Prabhupada's books'?"*

*"More than a few seasoned devotees and supportive academics opine that indeed it's time to move on. Maybe, while maintaining our eternal gratitude to you, our founder-acarya, it's now necessary to evaluate what you have left us and distill whatever part of that legacy should accompany us into the future of a different world and a different ISKCON."*

*"Amidst the burgeoning pot-pourri of Gaudiya Vaisnavism outside of India, do you still assert that your books are sufficient for bringing us to the zenith of bhakti?"*

*"Can your books withstand time? That is, are the purports and language dated—if not now, then in the future?"*

*"Is emphasis on distributing your books, by whatever method, outmoded? Isn't ISKCON without emphasis on mass distribution a breath of fresh air for us?"*

*"Should our senior devotees take the lead in demonstrating life-long dependence on your books for their spiritual sustenance and delight? Is there a danger that by doing so they could inhibit their spiritual maturity?"*

*"Would we gain anything significant and lasting if ISKCON's leaders, in both word and example, rallied to exalt your books as the main basis of our cultural unity?"*

(Extracts from current GBC Chairman's 2002 Vyasa-Puja offering to Srila Prabhupada)

In summary then, we have an ISKCON Guru, and now the worldwide head of the movement, who

by definition must be 100% surrendered in mind, body and words to the desires and instructions of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada – asking whether:

- Srila Prabhupada's books can bring us to the highest point of *bhakti*
- Srila Prabhupada's books are outdated
- Distributing Srila Prabhupada's books is an outmoded concept
- Dependence on Srila Prabhupada's books will inhibit one's spiritual maturity
- Srila Prabhupada's books are the basis for cultural unity within ISKCON.

This faithlessness in Srila Prabhupada's books is apparently still endemic in ISKCON, for even today the new GBC Chairman's "urban preaching centre" prefers to discuss fiction such as the best selling book *The Da Vinci Code*:

*"The Loft - Yoga Lounge - 1st floor, 99 Elizabeth St, City, Brisbane."*

The *Da Vinci Code Discussion* Relax in our comfortable lounge and discuss the issues raised by Dan Brown's run away best-seller "The Da Vinci Code". Followed by dinner. Suggested Donation: \$7"

(Readers may kindly turn to page 10 to see which books should be discussed in a Hare Krishna preaching centre).

So in conclusion, if one wonders what is the process for being given the topmost position in leading ISKCON, do not make the mistake of thinking that humbly toiling loyally on behalf of the GBC without deviation will get you anywhere. Rather, one tried and tested career path is to leave ISKCON and join a pseudo-Christian-Krishna cult; then return to ISKCON where you will get elected as a pure devotee Guru if you do and say all the right things; then publicly berate Srila Prabhupada's books; and for good measure, promote a work of fiction.



# Another ISKCON Guru gets carried away

## GBC Meetings 2005

**B**TP 6 showed how the ISKCON Guru Suhotra Das (he has now dropped the "Swami" title for reasons that shall be revealed) had accused the GBC of making a huge offense to Srila Prabhupada by, amongst other things, comparing him to a teacher that he had called a "black snake," in their widely promoted book *Hidden Glory of India*. Suhotra also compared the GBC, which is comprised almost entirely of other Gurus, with a "rotting fish".

In our article we pointed out that Suhotra should look at his own activities since, for many years, he had shared in an even bigger offense by effectively kicking Srila Prabhupada out of his own mission and stealing his disciples. As we repeatedly point out, not only is this usurping of Srila Prabhupada's rightful position highly offensive, it means that anyone who joins ISKCON will waste their lives serving people who are acting in direct defiance of the will of the Supreme Lord's representative. This has proved catastrophic for ISKCON, the so-called "Gurus" and their hapless followers.

In a recent statement issued from this year's GBC meetings, Suhotra reveals the trouble he has had in posing as though he were *saksad-hari* ("as good as God"):

*"Several years ago I published a letter to all ISKCON devotees about the trouble I was having from depression. I tried to rectify myself by resigning from the GBC, ceasing to give more initiations, and concentrating on my sannyasa duties."*  
(GBC Resolutions, 2005)

This relates to a period in 2000 when Suhotra revealed he had been straying from his vows and experiencing, in his own words, "deep rooted attachment" and an "unstable mind" that required "psychological counselling" and a "program of rehabilitation." He

also admitted to getting "carried away" by being absorbed in mundane "videos and novels" so that his "*sadhana*" deteriorated, and which thus became "a waste of time" (Excerpts from a letter from Suhotra Swami to Disciples, 19 June 2000).



**Suhotra Swami: Another Guru falls, showing that whole system is unauthorized**

Nevertheless, he was quickly reinstated and in 2003 the GBC passed the following resolution:

*"(...) the GBC hereby nominates H.H. Suhotra Swami to membership on the Sastric Advisory Council."*  
(GBC Resolution 503)

So, despite serious spiritual problems, Suhotra was not only allowed to continue as a Guru but also promoted onto the *Sastric* Advisory Council which guides the entire movement on all philosophical matters, including the Guru issue.

Suhotra Prabhu further adds:  
*"But the depression persisted and conspired with unhealthy, restless travel, lack of regulation, and lust, to knock me out of the race again."*

(GBC Resolutions, 2005)

Is it not incredible that the very people who should be most absorbed in pure consciousness of Krishna, and thus most submerged in the deepest reservoir of all spiritual bliss and happiness, are also falling prey to the most severely debilitating depression? In BTP we have quoted Satsvarupa, Prithu and now Suhotra all complaining of suffering from severe depression, fear and anxiety. Yet Srila Prabhupada says:

*"Because a pure devotee has no thought other than Krishna, he is naturally always joyful."*

(*Bhagavad-gita As It Is* 18.54, purport)

*"The bhaktas, the devotees, are fearless and always joyful because they are constantly engaged in the*

*service of the lotus feet of the Lord."*  
(*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.24.52, purport)

Clearly something has gone very wrong here. Certainly these people cannot be practising Krishna Consciousness since they are exhibiting the very opposite symptoms to those described above. Such mental aberrations are in fact symptoms of the lower modes of passion and ignorance:

*"In the conditioned stage, one's conceptions of life are sometimes polluted by passion and ignorance, which are exhibited by attachment, hostility, greed, lamentation, illusion, fear, madness..."*

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 7.15.43)

Suhotra further writes:

*"Though for many years I have held high position in ISKCON, I confess to you that I am not qualified to be counted among such leaders. (...) I relinquish the position of diksa and siksa guru."*

(GBC Resolutions, 2005)

Thus he has finally, after decades of false posturing, relinquished a position (*diksa* Guru) he should never have taken in the first place. According to Srila Prabhupada, the fact that a Guru falls into difficulty means he was never a bona fide, properly authorised spiritual master to begin with:

*"The spiritual master must never be carried away by an accumulation of wealth or a large number of followers. A bona fide spiritual master will never become like that. But sometimes, if a spiritual master is not properly authorized and only on his own initiative becomes a spiritual master, he may be carried away by an accumulation of wealth and large numbers of disciples."*

(Srila Prabhupada, *Nectar of Devotion*, chapter 14)

As we have mentioned in previous issues: since all the *diksa* Gurus in ISKCON claim authorisation via the identical miasma of lunatic alibis that constitute their position papers, and since they are constantly being "carried away" by *Maya* (illusion) and her agents, this alone proves that NONE of them are properly authorised. This will come as no surprise to anyone who has read Srila Prabhupada's order of July 9th 1977, wherein he only authorised his disciples to act as representative priests (*ritviks*) initiating on his behalf, not as initiating Gurus in their own right. So what solution does Suhotra offer the poor souls who surrendered their entire lives to a bogus Guru, serving him day in, day out, year after year? Yes, you guessed it, more of the same:

*"I urge the devotees initiated by me to take shelter of a fixed-up ISKCON Guru. If you so desire, do not hesitate to take re-initiation."*

(GBC Resolutions, 2005)

Unfortunately, the only thing ISKCON Gurus are "fixed up" in is disobeying Srila Prabhupada's direct, signed orders. In this sense they are not fit to instruct, let alone initiate, or in this case "re-initiate". And judging by the mental state of many of these pretenders, anyone who follows them also runs the risk of being "carried away".

*\* (Sadhana means spiritual practice such as chanting 16 rounds of the maha-mantra daily)*



# ISKCON Germany on the verge of collapse

## GBC Meetings 2005

**I**SKCON Germany started the New Year on a very bleak note. At a hurriedly convened meeting attended by all the national council members, along with the lack-lustre GBC for Germany Ravindra Svarupa Das, a declaration of a state of emergency was made in order to:

*"Avoid impending loss of the only three German temples namely: Abentheuer Temple, Goloka Dham, home of Radha Madhan Mohan Srila Prabhupada's original and only Radha Krsna deities in Germany. Jandelsbrunn temple, Simhacalam, home of Nrsimhadev largest deity in all of Europe Köln Temple, home of official Gaura Nitay deities in Germany. Avoid the loss of faith in Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON family and its representatives the GBC members."*

(From proposal to GBC by Dina Sharana Devi Dasi)

But why should there be any need to sell Germany's three remaining temples?

**"The amount due to this day is one million EU."**

And how did the German devotees get in such a financial mess?

*"...due to faithfully following past authorities..."*

If any company ran up such huge debts, the first thing to be done would be to fire those in charge. The following makes it clear why Ravindra Svarupa was more than happy to support Dina Sharana Devi Dasi's proposal:

*"The issues in M. Dina Sharana DD proposal are not about Who is right, Who is guilty, Who took advantage of the money, Who messed it all up!? Who is responsible for it!? Who will pay for it!?"*

So that gets around the issue of poor leadership from Ravindra Svarupa and the corrupt and unauthorised Gurus he has foisted on Germany over the years. The

proposal, which aims to raise the money over two years, cleverly makes great appeals to everyone's loyalty and affection for Srila Prabhupada:

*"Please consider: there is no ISKCON outside of ISKCON and as faithful followers of Srila Prabhupada's mission, there is no question of being part of the problem but part of the solution! (...) They will have a common cause to work for, to save Srila Prabhupada's movement in Germany, from being destroyed. (...) Only an ISKCON wide Solidarity Action is able to help us out of this mess, and only then will we be able carry on "Srila Prabhupada's Legacy", and will have the right to call ourselves by its name."*

Isn't it amazing how ISKCON only fully returns to belonging to Srila Prabhupada when money is needed? When the bogus Gurus create a huge mess they are more than willing to say ISKCON is Srila Prabhupada's movement, his legacy etc. But as soon as the money is sorted it then becomes the mission of eighty competing Gurus. We note that the proposal says nothing about working together to save the German temples for the ISKCON Gurus who need them as recruiting camps for new worshippers, yet this is exactly what they were used for since 1978. Since that date not one single, solitary disciple was made for Srila Prabhupada. If the German temples were saved, and a new devotee joined thinking it really was Srila Prabhupada's mission, and as a result wanted to accept him as his Guru in accordance with Srila Prabhupada's signed institutional directives, he would be ruthlessly hounded from the movement. That is the reality. So in what sense is it Srila Prabhupada's mission? So desperate is the author of the proposal to use Srila Prabhupada as support that she actually implies he would want

her plan to be implemented:

*"If Srila Prabhupada would physically be present before us at this very moment, we would not hesitate for a second and we would say: "Yes! I will do the needful!"*

We notice she does not use Ravindra Svarupa in her example, even though he was "physically present" right before them at the meeting. Clearly she did not feel he had the same potency to get the required response. Yet Ravindra claims to be the current representative of the same disciplic succession of mahabhagavatas (those on the top-most platform of spiritual advancement) that gave us Srila Prabhupada.

So we can see the same bait-and-switch scam mentioned in this issue's editorial at work in every crevice and corner of ISKCON today: *"Please save this temple for Srila Prabhupada"*, and then when the temple is saved, *"Srila Prabhupada is now dead, you cannot have him, you must have one of his successors instead."* (Please see back page if you feel this is an exaggeration.)

Readers of BTP may recall that in issue 2 we exposed the former GBC and Guru for Germany Harikesa Das as having left the movement with hundreds of thousands of dollars. He bought a luxury home on the French Riviera and settled down with his therapist. Another former leader and initiating Guru for Germany is the now disgraced Prithu Das, who was shown in our last issue to have perfectly demonstrated the abusive nature of a bogus Guru. When these Gurus got "carried away" there were not only the obvious financial irregularities of missing money, but also the fact that their disciples became totally confused and disheartened. For example, when Prithu admitted he was not following the basic principles of human life (not to speak of

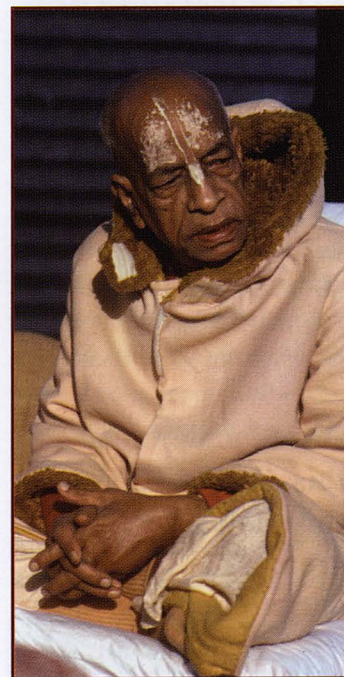
a liberated *acharya*) the temple in Vienna had to close since all his disciples lost faith in ISKCON.

Every time an ISKCON Guru goes down he leaves behind him a trail of destruction in the form of disillusioned followers whose faith is very often shattered beyond repair. Gaudiya Matha Gurus such as Narayana Maharaja then exploit the situation by posing themselves as spiritual masters who will never fall down. In this way, they hover round ISKCON picking off its disillusioned refugees for their own rival missions. All these problems are due to the unauthorised Guru system currently operating in ISKCON. As Srila Prabhupada states:

*"In the Caitanya-caritamrta (Antya 7.11) it is clearly said, krishna-shakti vina nahe tara pravarjana: without being authorized by Krishna, one cannot preach the holy name of the Lord throughout the entire world."*

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.14.39, purport)

That authorised person is already here – Srila Prabhupada – and one need not follow any other rival Gurus.



**Srila Prabhupada – Accept No Substitutes**



# Second Generation – Coming back to Srila Prabhupada



**By Sarasvati  
Dasi**  
New York, USA

Unlike all the wonderful devotees who have told their stories thus far, I was actually born in the ISKCON movement, and therefore my story is altogether quite different.

My mother Akara Devi Dasi had joined ISKCON in 1975 and later took initiation from Srila Prabhupada. She served at Srila Prabhupada's famous 55th St. skyscraper building temple, and did full-time *sankirtana*, *harinama* and *prasadam* distribution. She came from a very well educated family, with both her parents being editors at the *New York Times*, and later assistant managing editors at the *Philadelphia Enquirer*. Indeed, her father was so impressed by Srila Prabhupada that he cried when he heard of Srila Prabhupada's passing and ran a full-page obituary in the *Philadelphia Enquirer*! And though my mother was a devout Catholic she had a very inquiring mind and could not get the answers she wanted in the church. In Srila Prabhupada's books, however, her intellect found all the answers it needed, since she could clearly see how the books were complete and flawless. Like many disciples of Srila Prabhupada, she left the movement in 1978 following the hijack of the movement via the great Guru Hoax part 1 –

**Once I understood this, that ISKCON was throwing away the greatest gift – a path back to Godhead via Srila Prabhupada as the bona fide Guru – it was more than I could bear emotionally.**

as she could see that these new "Gurus" were definitely not Srila Prabhupada, and the movement now was no longer the same ISKCON she joined under Srila Prabhupada. However, also like many others, she did not have a full picture of what was going on, only that something was wrong. Hence she still wanted to remain connected to ISKCON somehow, even if she was no longer serving in the temples.

Even after she left the temple she kept up her *sadhana* program of chanting 16 rounds every day and following the 4 regulative principles, something she has maintained rigidly to this day. Naturally, therefore, when I was born two years later in 1980, she was determined to raise me as a devotee from birth. This was not at all easy, since my father who had also been a devotee had abandoned her, and hence my mother had to raise me and my two sisters Pralaya and Lalasa on her own. This involved home-schooling all of us, so that throughout my whole life I was either home-schooled or at *Gurukula* (ISKCON school) – but never had to spend even one day in a Government school. I was never allowed to watch TV or have any association with anyone who was a non-devotee! She tried her best to raise us as devotees and keep away all the influences of the materialistic society around us, which in the USA was not at all easy. However, her dedication and persistence paid off in that all three of us are still practising devotees to this day, with both of my sisters having obtained scholarships to the world famous School of American Ballet, and even having performed in Broadway musical reviews. While raising us, to financially support us, my mother ran a jewelry business in which she also trained me.

Due to this strict upbringing, by the time I reached 12, I real-

ly only knew about Krishna, Srila Prabhupada and the wonderful Krishna conscious philosophy. However, since I was about to enter my teens, my mother felt that going to *Gurukula* would help me maintain being a strict devotee. Unfortunately, as experienced by countless other devotee children raised in the movement, this was not going to be the case.

I attended the Alachua *Gurukula* – the residential Girls Vaisnava Academy – and it was to put it mildly the worst experience in my life, which I would not wish on anyone. The ironic thing was that having been home-schooled, I was strict in my Krishna consciousness and wished at that time nothing more than to be a devotee when I grew up, just like my mother. But arriving at *Gurukula* was a culture shock. I was expecting the level of my Krishna consciousness to now deepen and become more intense. Well it definitely was an intense experience, but not in terms of deepening my Krishna consciousness! The first thing which surprised me was the lack of Krishna *katha* (narrations about Krishna) present there. Both academics and spiritual knowledge were rarely imparted. Rather, the emphasis was simply on using us to do menial service and being trained up to do the "pick" (meaning going out and collecting money). We were read to, but nobody listened to us. We were forced to memorise verses, but nobody taught us how to apply the verses or live by them. And everything was done through force, not love. For instance, if we did not pay obeisances fast enough we would constantly

have our heads slammed into the floor. If anyone slouched during *japa* period (chanting on beads) the headmistress instructed the other *Gurukuli* children to pinch them as hard as possible. The other thing which surprised me at the time was the number of men, including *sannyasis* (Swamis or renunciants), who would always be hanging about the Girl's ashram. I of course could go on and on, but hope this brief glimpse will suffice. However, all this would have been tolerable if we were becoming more Krishna conscious as a result of it. But actually only the opposite was happening. Not only was I not becoming Krishna conscious, but the experience simply convinced me that Krishna consciousness was bad and I wanted nothing more to ever do with the movement. I was continually depressed, and thankfully after one year my nightmare ended and I was able to leave. Though the experience has left me permanently scarred, I am simply thankful that I did not experience gross abuse like many of the other children who attended *Gurukula*, and that I only had to endure it for one year. However, like so many oth-





da

er *Gurukulis*, I also made my best friends through this shared experience, friendships which endure to this day.

Shattered and broken, I went back to being home-schooled. But I was very conflicted about a movement which treated the children they were supposed to raise as devotees in this way. For me it was clear that going to this sort of *Gurukula*, far from assisting one's Krishna consciousness, one was committing spiritual suicide. So here I was, already scarred for life, and determined to do anything with my life EXCEPT dedicate my life to the movement, and I was only 13! Though I still tried my best to read Srila Prabhupada's books and follow, even though I was fed up with ISKCON.

So I entered adulthood confused about Krishna consciousness, not having any direction in my life, and only sure about not wanting to be directly involved in the movement. I guess this will sound familiar to many second generation devotees. I spent most of my time when not being home-schooled learning how to make jewelry and helping home-school my younger sisters. However, the last thing that was on my mind was to become actively involved with ISKCON in any capacity. The movement was a mess, a bad memory which I just wanted to forget and get on with my life. However, all throughout my life, my mother would still regularly take me and my sisters to visit temples and do service there, as she still wanted us to remain connected in some way to ISKCON.

It was during one such visit in 2000, to the ISKCON temple in Brooklyn, that I saw something which would change my life forever. I saw some devotees standing outside the temple passing out invitations to the inauguration in Tompkins Square Park of the plaque dedi-

cated to Srila Prabhupada by the City of New York. I took an invitation and thought it was nice that the City of New York was honouring Srila Prabhupada. What could anyone find wrong with such a nice event? Imagine my surprise, therefore, when I observed the leaders of the Brooklyn temple directing goons to physically accost the devotees who were passing out these invitations. The devotees passing out the invitations were yelled at, physically assaulted and obstructed in their distribution. In fact, the Brooklyn temple "devotees" began a *kirtan* (chanting with instruments) just to try and obstruct the devotees from announcing the plaque dedication ceremony! I was very shocked to see such treatment being meted out to devotees, and that simply for wanting to glorify Srila Prabhupada.

The incident sparked my curiosity and made me want to find out more. Having taken an invitation, I found out that these devotees behind the plaque ceremony were part of a movement that was set up specifically to revive the real Krishna consciousness movement which is dedicated only to Srila Prabhupada. I learned that since Srila Prabhupada's departure, the movement has been hijacked with many posing themselves as Gurus so that they can be worshipped as good as God, and that the movement had been ruined as a result. Of course, this made perfect sense, since I could definitely attest through personal experience that the movement was in a mess. But there was good news! Srila Prabhupada was still living and could be accessed directly as one's spiritual master. I was skeptical but interested to at least explore more since it was a fact that the movement had deteriorated. So my mother, my sisters and I began to attend the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) temple in New



York regularly to learn more. Like anyone who had contact with the movement, despite all the bad experiences, I still had lots of respect for Srila Prabhupada. The IRM was able to make clear that anything bad which had happened in the movement had nothing to do with Srila Prabhupada, and that rather in his name a group of vested interests were destroying everything which Srila Prabhupada had given his life to give us. Once I understood this, that ISKCON was throwing away the greatest gift – a path back to Godhead via Srila Prabhupada as the bona fide Guru – it was more than I could bear emotionally. I could see that Srila Prabhupada gave the topmost knowledge and way of life, and not only were people not able to experience this, but rather they were having their lives wrecked in the name of Krishna consciousness. I wanted to help make sure that this would not happen anymore, and understood that I was always meant to have been following Srila Prabhupada as his disciple, and that real genuine Krishna consciousness was available.

I am happy to report that as a result of having found the IRM, I have been able to turn my life around. Knowing that Srila Prabhupada is my eternal spiritual master has inspired me to once again take up with full vigour the practice of Krishna consciousness much more seriously. I do service

regularly at the New York IRM temple, distribute Srila Prabhupada's books whenever I can, give regular donations, and now finally have a mission and purpose in my life. And what's nice is that we all are made to feel like we are part of one big happy family, with Srila Prabhupada the father of us all.

I also recently began a career with the New York City Police Department, and finally feel my life is coming together. I am no longer confused, and want to thank the IRM for saving my devotional life and keeping me firmly fixed at Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet, where of course we should all be.

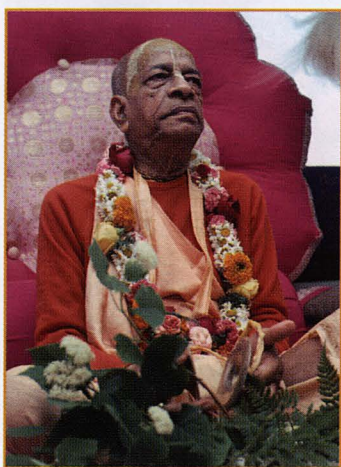
I would like to appeal to anyone who may have had a bad experience with the movement to not throw out the baby with the bathwater, as I almost did. The movement may have gone awry, but Srila Prabhupada was not in any way responsible, and in fact is still there for us, and his real Krishna consciousness movement will once again arise. And we have a great opportunity to be a part of this revival and get Srila Prabhupada's mercy.

**For me, my own life is living proof that Srila Prabhupada's mercy is just waiting for all of us!**

Readers are cordially invited to follow Sarasvati's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.



# Srila Prabhupada's books are enough



## Only Srila Prabhupada's Books To Be Studied

"There is no need by any of my disciples to read any books besides my books - in fact, such reading may be detrimental to their advancement in Krishna Consciousness. All reading of outside books, except in certain authorized cases such as for example to read some philosopher like Plato to make an essay comparing his philosophy with Krishna's philosophy - but otherwise all such outside reading should be stopped immediately. It is simply another botheration. If my students cannot even read my own books thoroughly, why they should read others? I have given you TLC, what need is there to read Caitanya Caritamrta translated by someone else. You are right to stop such reading."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Sri Govinda, January 20th, 1972)

"You haven't got to study many books. You just simply study Bhagavad-gita As It Is."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, September 15th, 1969)

"One should not partially study a book just to pose oneself as a great scholar by being able to refer to scriptures. In our Krsna consciousness movement we have therefore limited our study of the Vedic literatures to the Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, Caitanya-caritamrta and Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu. These four works are sufficient for preaching purposes. They are adequate for the understanding of the philosophy and the spreading of missionary activities all over the world. If one studies a particular book, he

must do so thoroughly. That is the principle. By thoroughly studying a limited number of books, one can understand the philosophy."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila, 22:118, purport)

"So there is nothing to be said new. Whatever I have to speak, I have spoken in my books. Now you try to understand it and continue your endeavor. Whether I am present or not present, it doesn't matter."

(Srila Prabhupada Arrival Speech, May 17th, 1977)

## Gaudiya Matha Books

"Regarding the Gaudiya Math books being circulated there, who is distributing? Who is sending these books? The Gaudiya Math does not sell our books, why we should sell their books. Who has introduced these books? Let me know. These books should not at all be circulated in our Society. Bhakti Vilas Tirtha is very much antagonistic to our society and he has no clear conception of devotional service. He is contaminated. Anyway, who has introduced these books? You say that you would read only one book if that was all that I had written, so you teach others to do like that. You have very good determination."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Sukadeva, November 14th, 1973)

"So if you want to understand Bhagavad-gita, then we must understand in the same way as the person who directly heard from. This is called parampara system. Suppose I have heard something from my spiritual master, so I speak to you the same thing. So this is

parampara system. You cannot imagine what my spiritual master said. Or even if you read some books, you cannot understand unless you understand it from me."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, December 8th, 1973)

"Whatever is to be learned of the teachings of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura can be learned from our books. There is no need whatsoever for any outside instruction."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Gururkpa and Yasodanandana, December 25th, 1973)

## Srila Prabhupada's Books Answer All Questions

"In my books the philosophy of Krsna Consciousness is explained fully so if there is anything you do not understand, then you simply have to read again and again. By reading daily the knowledge will be revealed to you and by this process your spiritual life will develop."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Brahmaraupa, November 22nd, 1974)

"Every one of you must regularly read our books at least twice, in the morning and evening, and automatically all questions will be answered."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Randhira, January 24th, 1970)

**Devotee:** Srila Prabhupada when you're not present with us, how is it possible to receive instructions? For example in questions that may arise...

**Srila Prabhupada:** Well the questions are answered...answers are there in my books.

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 13th May 1973)

## IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole Diksa Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and Diksa Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page for order details.



# Myth-busters: The “tradition” myths

## 1) MYTH: “It cannot be the case that Srila Prabhupada intended to operate a representational system of initiation within ISKCON, in which he remained the *diksa* Guru, since it goes completely against tradition.”

### BUSTED:

- Srila Prabhupada most certainly did set up a *ritvik* system, even the GBC admit as much, and there is no evidence he ever ordered it to stop.
- Srila Prabhupada never taught that a disciple can stop following one of his orders just because he thinks it may not be “traditional”.
- In relation to the Spiritual Master, the “tradition” we follow is to accept him as Krishna’s representative and then do whatever he says:

*“According to the Vaisnava tradition, we arrive at the truth through the guru, the spiritual master, who is accepted as the representative of the Absolute Truth, the Personality of Godhead.” (Quest for Enlightenment, chapter 6)*

*“Disciple means there is no argument. Whatever the guru will say, you have to accept. That is disciple. That is final. There is no argument.” (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, June 28th, 1976)*

- By definition, such orders from the bona fide Guru are always in accordance with *sastric* (scriptural) injunctions, though not necessarily with the “traditional” way in which such injunctions have been exemplified or practised previously.
- Therefore it is quite “traditional” to follow the *ritvik* system since this is what Srila Prabhupada ordered us to do.
- Opponents of the *ritvik* system need to show which specific *sastric* injunction the *ritvik* system violates, not simply parrot the word “tradition” as though it encapsulated some sort of profound argument.

## 2) MYTH: “But such a *ritvik* system has never been used before.”

### BUSTED:

- Anyone making this assertion is simply bluffing, since they cannot possibly know what every single *acarya* in every single previous age has done. Even if they did, it would still be an irrelevant argument since nowhere did Srila Prabhupada say an *acarya* cannot change various formalities and details according to time, place and circumstance; indeed he taught the very opposite with specific reference to initiation:

*“Srimad Viraraghava Acarya, an acarya in the disciplic succession of the Ramanuja-sampradaya, has remarked in his commentary that candalas (people of low birth), or conditioned souls who are born in lower than sudra families, can also be initiated according to circumstances. The formalities may be slightly changed here and there to make them Vaisnavas.” (Srimad-Bhagavatam, 4.8.54 purport)*

- The use of priests to perform initiations in the physical absence of a Guru is certainly nothing more than a change of “formality”. The onus is on those who insist it is a change of principle to state what that principle is and where it is stated by Srila Prabhupada.
- Similarly, the following quote shows, that since every *acarya* may employ different specific methods to bring persons to Krishna consciousness, there cannot be a set tradition that every *acarya* must adhere to:

*“Every acarya has a specific means of propagating his spiritual movement with the aim of bringing men to Krsna consciousness. Therefore, the method of one acarya may be different from that of another, but the ultimate goal is never neglected.” (Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adi-lila, 7:37 purport)*

## 3) MYTH: “We follow historical precedent, and therefore since we have no evidence that *ritvik* initiations have been done, we cannot do it.”

### BUSTED:

- Everyone agrees that Srila Prabhupada set up a *ritvik* system to be operated prior to his departure, yet this system was also completely unique so far as we know. So by this logic the system should never have been implemented at all since it is not mentioned previously; yet even the GBC accept that Srila Prabhupada implemented it.
- There is no historical precedent for a disciple to reject an order of his Guru purely on the basis that it has no historical precedent, therefore the argument is self-contradictory.

## 4) MYTH: “The *acarya* always follows past tradition in all respects and never deviates from it.”

### BUSTED:

- Srila Prabhupada never taught this axiom in any of his books, nor did he follow it since he did many things that were not traditional (such as give *gayatri* mantra by magnetic tape, setting up a *ritvik* system etc.).
- To even sensibly discuss this “tradition” argument one would first need to do a comparative study showing exactly what initiation system all previous world *acaryas*, who appeared just after the Golden Avatar (Lord Caitanya) in previous *Kali-yugas* (one of the Vedic epochs) during the mini-golden age, left in place for their missions just prior to their departure. Yet we have no authorised information to even begin such a study.



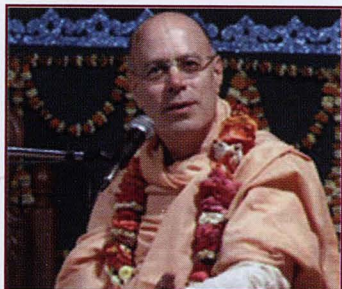
*“No. Tradition, religion, they are all material. They are also all designation.” (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, March 13th, 1975)*

*“Our only tradition is how to satisfy Vishnu.” (Srila Prabhupada Lecture, July 30th, 1973)*

*“That tradition is nothing. Tradition is just temporary. You make your tradition; he makes your tradition. That is another thing. But the, fact is fact. That is not dependent on tradition. Tradition we can make, tradition. “We believe.” Just like somebody says, “We believe.” What is the use of such saying, “We believe”? You may believe something which is not fact.” (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, February 13th, 1975)*



# ISKCON's Master of Peril: Case Study of Tamala



One of the most influential and controversial Guru hoaxers in ISKCON was Tamala Krishna Goswami (henceforward "TKG"), who died in a car crash on a road north of Calcutta on 15th March 2002. It was TKG who, in his capacity as Srila Prabhupada's secretary, co-signed the famous July 9th, 1977 letter, and who later went on to give many conflicting accounts as to what Srila Prabhupada intended with regards Guruship in ISKCON. Following his death he has been canonized by ISKCON, with his body laid to rest in a *samadh*i (sacred shrine reserved only for the most exalted infallible saints in the Gaudiya Vaisnava line) at its spiritual headquarters in Mayapur, West Bengal (see picture). Hence, it is appropriate to present an account of the numerous contradictory justifications for ISKCON's Guru hoax given by this GBC-declared "saint," some of which TKG confessed to in an academic paper called *The Perils of Succession*, and all of which led to turmoil within the Movement and heavily influenced the current false Guru philosophy in ISKCON.

**1) 1978:** TKG agreed with the rest of the eleven *ritviks* (priests) named in the July 9th letter that they had all been appointed as the "material and spiritual successors" to Srila Prabhupada. He enthusiastically participated in and supported a system where the world was carved up into eleven zones, and where all the Gurus were daily worshipped on huge, ornate *vyasanas* (special decorative seats for the

Guru) by their devoted disciples. A Governing Body Commission (GBC) paper approved by TKG stated:

*"The GBC members met together in Vrindavana and prepared a few last questions to put before Srila Prabhupada. [...] Then he said that he would name the initiating gurus later. [...] Then one day in June he gave his secretary the names of eleven disciples who would be initiating the disciples. [...] Now these godbrothers are worshipped by their disciples as genuine spiritual masters. This means for example, that they are to be considered, as stated in the Guruvastakam, as nikunjo-yuno rati keli siddhyai - intimate assistants in the pastimes of Krsna."*

*(The Process For Carrying Out Srila Prabhupada's Desires For Future Initiations; A paper prepared by the GBC in consultation with higher authorities, Mayapur, 1978)*

TKG vigorously enforced the above understanding, often intimidating and browbeating questioning devotees into accepting it, as in the following letter to one such "doubting Thomas":

*"The argument that after the*



*departure of the spiritual master anyone of his disciples can give initiation, cannot be applied in the case of Srila Prabhupada who specifically named 11 persons only at first to fulfil this function. These 11 persons were named by Srila Prabhupada in the beginning of July, 1977, in Vrindavana in the back garden of his house. These names were dictated to me as I was serving as*

*his secretary, and now he had me write a letter to all the GBC's and Temple Presidents which he also signed as approved on the 9th of July listing their names and defining their function. [...] Thus, we can understand, that in regard to the third definition of acarya, that Srila Prabhupada clearly appointed 11 successors for initiation. Whatever process may have been followed by past acaryas, Prabhupada chose to appoint. [...] Even after having these facts clearly explained, if some one continues to blaspheme the 11 Gurus, their legitimacy, blasphemes ISKCON, the spiritual vehicle created by Prabhupada to fulfil his will, blasphemes the GBC - the approved driver of the vehicle - [...] he is not a disciple at all. Rather he is the killer of Gurudev and his spiritual whereabouts is unknown."*

*(TKG Letter to Upananda Das, December 13th, 1978)*

It has now been admitted by the GBC that TKG's initial understanding of what the July 9th letter meant, along with the "Zonal Acarya" system this understanding inspired, were both incorrect. Thus, from the very beginning

and Godsisters, could only serve Srila Prabhupada through him and him alone! As TKG himself explains:

*"Tamala Krishna Goswami, the leader of a large number of sannayasa and brahmachari preachers, insisted that he was now their via media in relating to Prabhupada and expected that his godbrothers follow him absolutely."*

*(The Perils of Succession, TKG, 1996)*

## **3) December 3rd, 1980:**

Having been suspended by the GBC for the above insanity, TKG next decided to pull the rug from under the other Guru hoaxers' feet with the following shocking revelation:

*"Myself and the other GBC have done the greatest disservice to this movement the last three years because we interpreted the appointment of ritviks as the appointment of gurus."*

*(TKG, Topanga Canyon Confessions, December 3rd, 1980)*

Here TKG not only claimed that his understanding of the July 9th letter was wrong in 1978, but also that he had now finally understood what Srila Prabhupada really wanted.

**4) 1982:** Having called the GBC's bluff above, TKG was swiftly re-instated as a Guru, and in return he once again changed his mind and went back to the version of events he had originally supported and ruthlessly enforced in 1978, only to later reject in 1980:

*"I do not think that there is any problem in accepting the spiritual masters who Srila Prabhupada appointed. (...) Our movement is progressing and growing more and more, at least as much as it was during Srila Prabhupada's time. [...] You have enclosed a clipping from Back To Godhead in which Srila Bhaktipada is advertised as 'Bona fide Spiritual Master'. You say 'this*

TKG had apparently misunderstood the proper meaning and context of the July 9th letter, as he himself would later admit.

**2) 1980:** TKG was suspended from acting as a Guru by the GBC. He had become convinced that not just his own disciples, but also all members of ISKCON, including his Godbrothers



# Krishna Goswami

*is something that seems a little strange to me. Would you please explain to me what seems strange?"*

(TKG Letter to Gadai Prabhu,

June 14th, 1982)

TKG was back in business as a Guru, and so was happy to again propagate the myth that he and the other hoaxers were "appointed" to act as such by Srila Prabhupada. Incidentally, the "Srila Bhaktipada" referred to by TKG above has only last year been released from a lengthy prison term. Perhaps poor Gadai Prabhu had a point.

- 5) 1984:** TKG publishes a book called *Servant of the Servant* in which he categorically states:

*"Since the disappearance of our beloved spiritual master, we have seen such disenchanted persons come forward trying to cast doubt on the legacy left by Srila Prabhupada. When Srila Prabhupada appointed from among his senior disciples eleven persons to continue the process of initiation, and when after their spiritual master's departure those whom he selected assumed their duties by his command, the critics began to bark their discontent. [...] To such irresponsible criticism we answer a decisive "No!" SP chose them because they merited his confidence. [...] Thus he considered them to be uttama-adhikari\*, all highly advanced devotees worthy to be accepted as spiritual masters. [...] Critics may doubt whether our ISKCON acaryas are actually liberated. Do they know their rasa (liberated relationship) with Krsna, and will they be able to instruct their disciples similarly? But such questions bring one dangerously near the precipice of spiritual calamity."*

(*Servant of the Servant*, TKG, Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1984, pages 361-365)

\*(Persons on the highest platform of God-realisation)

- 6) 1987:** TKG yet again changes his mind and wholeheart-

edly endorses the Guru hoax part 2, confessing yet again that what he and the other 11 appointees had been doing and teaching for the last 10 years was utterly wrong with regards the system of initiation. In other words he flips back to his late 1980 position (point 3 above). To demonstrate his commitment to this latest shift in position, TKG agreed to edit out of his book *Servant of the Servant* the above quoted passage. The "Zonal Acarya" system had been an almost unmitigated disaster, during which most of Srila Prabhupada's original disciples had been driven out by intimidating Gurus like TKG; as he delicately put it:

*"The stormy decade following Prabhupada's demise left many casualties in its wake: perhaps as many as 90% of Prabhupada's initiated disciples were now marginalised; disciples of fallen Gurus felt they had no shelter; the preaching mission as a whole lost momentum and cohesion."*

(*The Perils of Succession*, TKG, 1996)

TKG made sure he was not one of the "casualties" of this "stormy period" by cannily jumping onto the second Guru hoax bandwagon when he saw there was absolutely no other choice.

- 7) 1992-95:** TKG's understanding of Guruship takes a further radical twist as he begins preaching that Srila Prabhupada had not given the "highest understanding" and that everyone should take guidance from the "rasika\*\* Guru" Narayana Maharaja, who one former GBC chairman described as:

*"...a crooked and talented pretender or impostor, who has seduced, beguiled and misled many people."*

(Ravindra Svarupa Das, *Taking Srila Prabhupada Straight*, 1998)

As a result of his sustained deviancy, the GBC suspended TKG for the second time.

- 8) 1995:** TKG now denounces his previous four years of proselytising on behalf of Narayana Maharaja as a "mistake", admitting that he was in fact wrong to say that everyone needed a *rasika*-Guru. Of course, by now the damage had been done, reverberations of which continue to this day with Narayana Maharaja grabbing huge chunks of ISKCON all over the world. Still, TKG's capitulation allowed him to be once again reinstated as an ISKCON Guru. He was back in the Guru business yet again.

- 9) 1996:** TKG seems to slip back to the "appointment" theory that he had supposedly rejected in the post-1987 "reforms", as he writes:

*"6 months before his own demise, Prabhupada had announced that he would appoint some of his disciples to perform all of the functions of initiating new disciples as he had become too ill to do so. Those so initiated would still be Prabhupada's disciple while those who would be initiated after his demise would become his grand-disciples."*

(*The Perils of Succession*, TKG, 1996)

Please note above that TKG claims that Srila Prabhupada's intention to appoint disciples to assist with initiation, as recorded in the May 28th, 1977 conversation (see BTP 3, page 11) "6 Months before his own demise", was even at that stage allegedly motivated by illness, and that the "naming of the Gurus" in the July 9th letter flowed directly from this May 28th conversation.

- 10) 1998:** A more subtle shift perhaps, but we see below how TKG next claimed that the issue of appointing the "11", as had occurred via the July 9th letter, was done entirely independently and

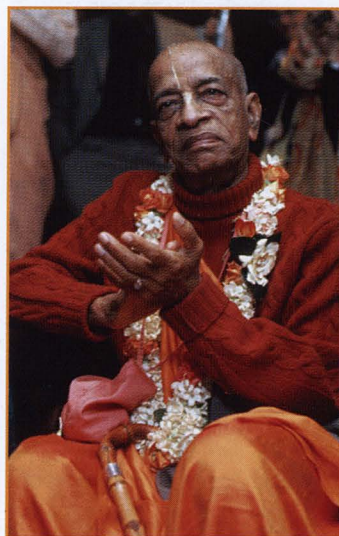
with no relation to the May 28th conversation, even though above he had claimed the exact opposite:

*"In writing this letter (July 9th) (...) It was very clear in my mind at that time that what we were discussing was the process of initiation in Prabhupada's presence. How things would go on after his presence, he had already instructed us when the 5 or 6 of us had met him on May 28th, one had nothing to do with the other."*

(Class given by TKG on August 6th, 1998, in Hong Kong)

He never could stick to one version of precisely how, when and where he and the other *ritviks* were authorised by Srila Prabhupada to initiate their own disciples. On the above evidence it would be hard to see anything that was "very clear" in the "mind" of TKG, other than a steadfast determination to remain an initiating Guru. Even though TKG is no longer with us, rest assured his legacy lives on with every decision the GBC takes with regards its deviant and unauthorised Guru programme.

\*\* (A *rasika*-Guru is supposedly adept at helping a disciple to realise his original form in the spiritual world, and thus his specific *rasa* or relationship with Krishna.)



**Srila Prabhupada: The Guru for ISKCON Who Can be Followed Without Peril**



## GBC Meetings 2005



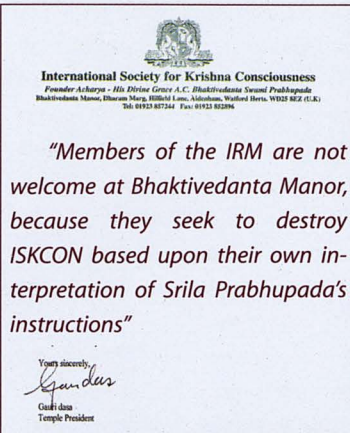
# Cultic mind control policy continues

**R**eaders of *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP) will by now be familiar with the various methods of cult control ISKCON has employed to try and suppress the truth that Srila Prabhupada, the founder of the Hare Krishna movement, is also the movement's only authorized initiating (*diksa*) Guru. In the very first issue of BTP, we highlighted the cult tactic of thought control employed by Vipramukhya Swami, the disgraced "Harry Potter Guru" (so-called because of his predilection for "flying" on broomsticks). The former Swami, who was also the Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor until he flew away with a young lady, was notorious for issuing letters banning people from advocating the position of Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON, even within their own homes (see BTP 1, page 13). Failure to comply with his draconian directive would be regarded as "trespassing" if such a thought criminal were to visit the temple, resulting in the Swami calling the police to have the poor devotee evicted from the premises on the pretext of "disturbing the peace." This unbelievable action actually happened and was captured on film, photographic evidence of which we published in BTP 2 (page 13).

In issue 5, we carried an article by Chaitanya Thankey in our regular "Coming to Prabhupada" section. In this article, Mr. Thankey detailed his evolution from accepting a false Guru in ISKCON to his acceptance of Srila Prabhupada as the only authorized and bona fide *diksa* Guru of ISKCON. On November 21, 2004, following the publication of BTP 5, Mr. Thankey visited Bhaktivedanta Manor to worship in the temple as usual. However, when Mr. Thankey entered the temple, one of the temple managers approached Mr. Thankey under the instructions of Gauri Das, the Temple President

of Bhaktivedanta Manor, asked Mr. Thankey to immediately leave, and then escorted him off the premises despite Mr. Thankey's initial protestations. Somewhat bemused by this treatment more akin to dictatorships than open, democratic societies, Mr. Thankey initiated a correspondence with Gauri Das.

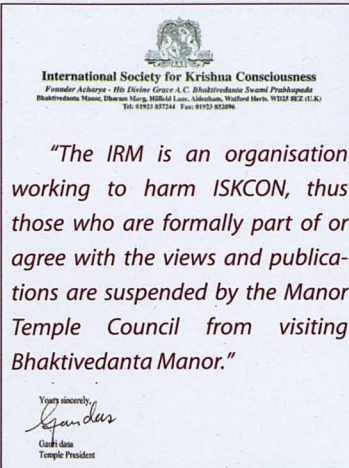
In his first letter to Mr. Thankey, Gauri Das wrote:



(Letter from Gauri Das, 18 December 2004)

The absurdity of Gauri Das' claim above is astounding. He has provided not a single shred of evidence that the IRM is "seeking to destroy ISKCON". The Nazis had also made the allegation that the Jews wanted to destroy Germany without any evidence, and it was actually the false, wild allegations themselves which were used to facilitate the real destroying. The IRM's "interpretation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions", which is clearly documented in our book *The Final Order*, as well as in a number of papers and academic publications, simply states that Srila Prabhupada established himself as the only initiating Guru for ISKCON, and that his final signed directive on this matter should be followed. So we therefore ask Gauri Das: HOW does this "interpretation" lead to the "destruction" of ISKCON? Rather, surely FOLLOWING the instructions of the spiritual master Srila Prabhupada is the only way to ensure ISKCON is NOT destroyed?

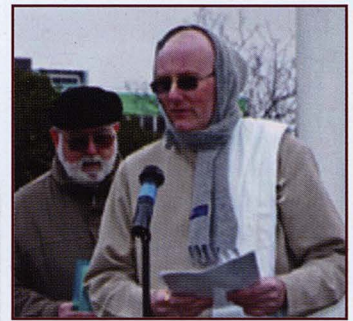
In his second reply, Gauri Das wrote:



(Letter from Gauri Das, 17 February 2005)

Gauri now brings into play a tactic much favoured by cults – THOUGHT CONTROL. What Gauri Das is now saying is that one simply has to AGREE with the views of the IRM, namely that Srila Prabhupada is the bona fide initiating spiritual master of ISKCON, and you will be banned from Srila Prabhupada's temple. Thus cult mind control is now complete from all sides. First, readers were horrified that they could be banned from the temple because of what they advocated in their own homes. Now, simply AGREEING with the viewpoint of the IRM is enough. Thus this truly is, without any exaggeration, a "thought-crime." For now you will be punished not for what you DO, nor even for what you say, but simply for what you are suspected of THINKING.

Gauri Das' letters have a further, hidden twist of irony to them. Gauri Das is also a "Spiritual Commissioner" of the **Hindu Forum of Britain** – whose leadership was recently invited to the home of **Dr. Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi**, to participate in a well publicised Hindu-Jewish community-building meeting. Dr. Sacks is a prominent writer and broadcaster in the UK and well known for his eloquence in denouncing the evils of Nazism and his support for free speech.



**Hypocrisy: Gauri Das attends a local Holocaust Memorial Day service, yet is imposing his own tyranny**

He wrote in the famous London *Times* newspaper:

*"Whatever we believe, we should test in the arena of free debate, rigorous argument and a willingness to confront positions antithetical to one's own. That is why academic boycotts and the refusal to give certain views a respectful hearing are unacceptable, a denial of academic freedom and intellectual integrity alike."*

**Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, *The Times* (London), June 21st 2003.**

Gauri Das' letters enforcing a policy of thought control do not at all sit well with the views of Dr. Sacks.

When condemning the Nazi policy of book-burning, the author Helen Keller declared:

*"History has taught you nothing if you think you can kill ideas. Tyrants have tried to do that often before, and the ideas have risen up in their might and destroyed them."*

That is why, in the words of BTP's motto originally used by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada in the first issues of his *Back to Godhead* magazine, we must continue to **"defeat tyranny in the realm of thought"**

## Back to Prabhupada BACK ISSUES!

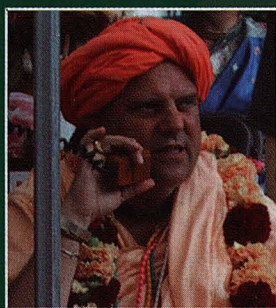
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**All glories to Srila Prabhupada!**



# ISKCON Gurus Preach "Prabhupada Is Dead" Blasphemy

Throughout his books, lectures, letters and conversations, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, the Founder and initiating (*diksa*) Guru of ISKCON, consistently preached that the current link, bona fide spiritual master lives in his teachings and continues to impart transcendental knowledge (*divya-jnana* or *diksa*). He gave the example of **Lord Jesus Christ** who physically "died" on the cross 2000 years ago, but who, according to Srila Prabhupada (as well as every Christian on the planet), continues to live and to give liberation to his sincere followers (*"Actually, one who is guided by Jesus will certainly get liberation"* - *Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*, chapter 9). Therefore, in order to establish their legitimacy as Prabhupada's successors, ISKCON's Gurus have had to resort to blaspheming Srila Prabhupada by publicly declaring his death as the current link, thereby unauthorisedly usurping his position. However, as we see below, such rumours of Prabhupada's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

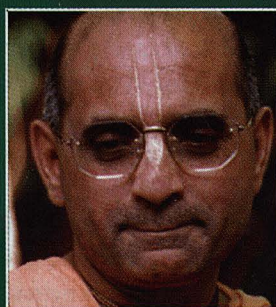
## ISKCON Gurus Contradict ISKCON Founder-Acarya!



**HH Jayapataka Swami, self-authorised ISKCON Guru:**

*"Srila Prabhupada has been dead for the last 23 years"*

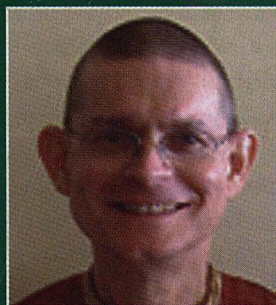
(Front page, *Asian Age* newspaper, 24th July 2000)



**HH Bhakti Caru Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru:**

*"But if instead we feel that, 'Now Srila Prabhupada is dead and gone; now I am the guru. So what Srila Prabhupada was to his disciples, to my disciples I am just that.' That mentality would have been fine if we were not a part of a world-wide institution like ISKCON."*

(Day 3, LA Seminar, 'Questions and Answers', Published on June 11, 2000)



**Ravindra Svarupa Das, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru :**

*"I simply wish that these people (ritvik advocates) would settle this issue by writing Prabhupada a letter and letting us know what he says when he answers back."*

(Video, San Diego debate, 1990)

### His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON Founder-Acarya:

**Reporter:** Who will succeed you when you die?

**Srila Prabhupada:** I will never die

**Devotees:** Jaya! Haribol!

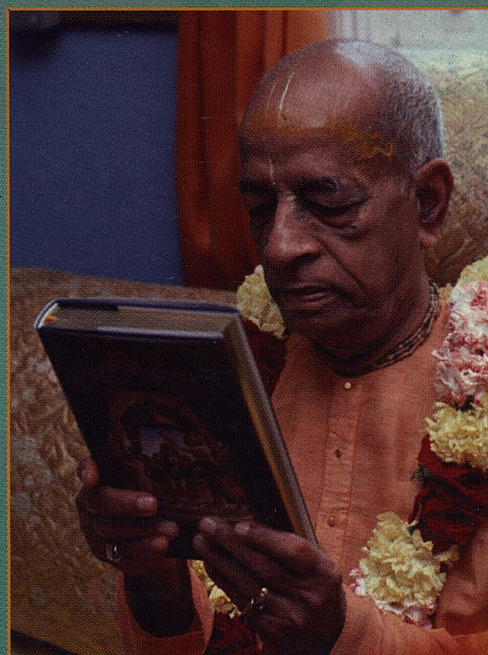
**Srila Prabhupada:** I shall live from my books and you will utilise.  
(Press Conference, 16th July 1975, San Francisco)

*"So my Guru Maharaja will be very, very much pleased with you ... it is not that he is dead and gone. That is not spiritual understanding ... he is seeing. I never feel that I am alone."*

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 2nd March 1975)

**Devotee:** Srila Prabhupada when you're not present with us, how is it possible to receive instructions? For example in questions that may arise...

**Srila Prabhupada:** Well the questions are answ...answers are there in my books.  
(Morning Walk, Los Angeles, 13/5/73)



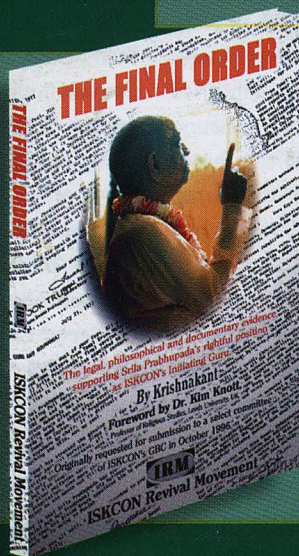
## ENLIGHTENMENT:

The solution to all this ISKCON Guru confusion is clearly explained in the book **"The Final Order"**.

To receive a **FREE** copy, please email us at: [irm@iskconirm.com](mailto:irm@iskconirm.com)

or fill out the enclosed reply card

or write to our address given on page 2.



## THE BOOK THE GBC DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ!

*"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."*

From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK